

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR  
April 17, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR #219  
Bean & Associates, Inc.  
Professional Court Reporting Service  
201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

JOB NO.: 3800N (CC)

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES  
 2 COMMISSIONERS:  
 3 MS. PATRICIA GIPSON, Chair  
 4 MS. TRISH RUIZ, Vice Chair  
 5 MS. KARYL ANN ARMBRUSTER, Secretary  
 6 MR. R. CARLOS CABALLERO, Member  
 7 MR. MICHAEL CHAVEZ, Member  
 8 MR. TIM CRONE, Member  
 9 MS. GEORGINA DAVIS, Member  
 10 MS. SONIA RAFTERY, Member  
 11 MR. DAVID ROBBINS, Member  
 12 MS. GLENNA VOIGT, Member  
 13  
 14 PED STAFF:  
 15 MR. ALAN BRAUER, Director, Charter School Division  
 16 MS. KAREN WOERNER, Acting Director,  
 17 Charter School Division  
 18 MS. BEVERLY FRIEDMAN, PED Custodian of Record  
 19 and Liaison to the PEC  
 20  
 21 PEC COUNSEL:  
 22 MS. AMI JAEGER, Counsel to the PEC  
 23 MR. MARK CHAIKEN, Counsel to the PEC  
 24  
 25

Page 4

1 THE CHAIR: Okay. So good morning,  
 2 everyone, and thanks for bearing with this as we get  
 3 all of this straightened out. And thanks to all the  
 4 Commissioners.  
 5 This morning -- after the practice, it  
 6 didn't go as smoothly as we had hoped; so it took us  
 7 a little bit to get situated this morning.  
 8 And I'm going to thank all the schools  
 9 that we unfortunately can't see today and anyone  
 10 else that's in the audience. But thank you for  
 11 coming.  
 12 And I'm going to ask Commissioner Ruiz to  
 13 please take roll call.  
 14 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Good morning. Okay.  
 15 Commissioner Robbins?  
 16 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Present.  
 17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt?  
 18 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Present.  
 19 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner  
 20 Armbruster?  
 21 (No response.)  
 22 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Davis?  
 23 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes, I'm here.  
 24 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Chavez?  
 25 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Present.

Page 3

1 INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS  
 2 PAGE  
 3 1 Call to Order, Roll Call, 4  
 4 Pledge of Allegiance and  
 5 Salute to the New Mexico Flag  
 6 2 Approval of Agenda 6  
 7 3 Consent Agenda 7  
 8 4 Report from Options for Parents and 9  
 9 the Charter School Division - Discussion  
 10 and Possible Actions  
 11 5 Discussion and Possible Action on Amendment 34  
 12 Request for Enrollment Cap Increase for  
 13 Taos Integrated School of the Arts  
 14 6 Discussion and Possible Action on 46  
 15 Change in Location for Hózhó Academy  
 16  
 17 7 Briefing and Discussion on the 56  
 18 Appeal Decision for Turquoise Trail  
 19 Charter School  
 20  
 21 8 Discussion and Possible Action on Corrective 0  
 22 Action Plan for La Academia Dolores Huerta  
 23 9 Discussion on the PEC Memorandum of 72  
 24 Understanding with NM Public Education  
 25 Department  
 10 Report from the Chair 73  
 11 PEC Comments 78  
 12 Adjourn 94  
 13 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 95  
 14 ATTACHMENTS:  
 15 1 List of Attendees

Page 5

1 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Gipson?  
 2 THE CHAIR: Here.  
 3 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Raftery?  
 4 (No response.)  
 5 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Crone?  
 6 (No response.)  
 7 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Crone?  
 8 (No response.)  
 9 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I thought he was here.  
 10 MS. KAREN WOERNER: I think Commissioner  
 11 Crone and Commissioner Raftery -- excuse me,  
 12 Commissioner Ruiz.  
 13 Commissioner Crone and Commissioner  
 14 Raftery need to unmute themselves.  
 15 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Because I did not hear  
 16 Commissioner Raftery say, "Here."  
 17 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: I'm not muted.  
 18 I'm --  
 19 THE CHAIR: We can hear you now.  
 20 COMMISSIONER CRONE: I'm not muted,  
 21 either.  
 22 THE CHAIR: We can hear you now. Yeah.  
 23 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Thank you.  
 24 And Commissioner Ruiz is here.  
 25 Commissioner Caballero?

Page 6

1 (No response.)  
 2 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner  
 3 Caballero?  
 4 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Present.  
 5 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay. So we have nine  
 6 Commissioners present, and Commissioner Armbruster  
 7 is not. We do have a quorum.  
 8 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much. And I'm  
 9 now going to ask Commissioner Davis to lead us in  
 10 the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Chavez in  
 11 the Salute to the New Mexico Flag.  
 12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: So are we going to  
 13 actually stand up?  
 14 THE CHAIR: I am.  
 15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay.  
 16 (Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the  
 17 New Mexico Flag conducted.)  
 18 THE CHAIR: So thanks, everyone. We are  
 19 on to Item No. 2, which is the approval of the  
 20 agenda.  
 21 And I know -- I do have one change to  
 22 make. And that is in No. 4, letter C.1, we will  
 23 remove Alma d'Arte from the concerns list there.  
 24 They stay on the consent agenda. All their  
 25 notifications are in.

Page 7

1 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Madam Chair, I make a  
 2 motion to approve the agenda with the aforementioned  
 3 changes.  
 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I second that.  
 5 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by  
 6 Commissioner Ruiz and a second by Commissioner  
 7 Davis.  
 8 All in favor?  
 9 (Commissioners so indicate.)  
 10 THE CHAIR: Opposed?  
 11 (No response.)  
 12 THE CHAIR: Hearing no opposition --  
 13 hearing no opposition, the motion passes.  
 14 We are now on to Item No. 3, which is the  
 15 consent agenda. And I do believe, Commissioner  
 16 Voigt, you have a change needed for the transcript?  
 17 Is that not correct?  
 18 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Right. It's a minor  
 19 edit. On the summary page, Commissioner  
 20 Armbruster's and my district numbers should be  
 21 switched.  
 22 THE REPORTER: This is the court reporter.  
 23 I would like to state that I believe it is on the  
 24 packet rather than the transcript.  
 25 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Correct. Yes, thank

Page 8

1 you. It is on the packet; it's not on the  
 2 transcript. It's on the summary page. So I don't  
 3 know if that's --  
 4 THE CHAIR: I'm going to ask -- yeah.  
 5 It's just on the -- right. So it's just where --  
 6 the change is coming on -- in No. 3.a.3, not off of  
 7 2, which is the transcript. It's just the summary  
 8 page.  
 9 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Correct.  
 10 THE CHAIR: Correct. That's correct.  
 11 Yeah. Okay.  
 12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thanks.  
 13 THE CHAIR: So if there are no other  
 14 changes, I'll entertain a motion for approval of the  
 15 consent agenda with the change to No. 3.a.3 that has  
 16 been noted.  
 17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: So move. Commissioner  
 18 Ruiz.  
 19 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Second.  
 20 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by  
 21 Commissioner Ruiz. There's a second by Commissioner  
 22 Voigt. We do need a roll call for this.  
 23 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Robbins?  
 24 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.  
 25 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt?

Page 9

1 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.  
 2 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner  
 3 Armbruster is not here.  
 4 Commissioner Davis?  
 5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.  
 6 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Chavez?  
 7 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.  
 8 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Gipson?  
 9 THE CHAIR: Yes.  
 10 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Raftery?  
 11 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes.  
 12 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Crone?  
 13 COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes.  
 14 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Ruiz  
 15 votes "Yes."  
 16 And Commissioner Caballero?  
 17 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes.  
 18 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: A nine vote; so, yes,  
 19 it passes.  
 20 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Motion passes  
 21 nine-zero.  
 22 We are now on to Item No. 4, which is the  
 23 report from Options for Parents, Charter School  
 24 Division, Discussion and Possible Actions.  
 25 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Excuse me, Alan.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Before you start, should I add Explore Academy now 2 to the meeting? Yes? 3 MS. FRIEDMAN: Hi, it's me. 4 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Alan, should I add 5 Explore Academy, because they're in this section; 6 right? 7 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Yes, they are in this 8 section, so go ahead and add them in. 9 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Sorry, folks. I'm 10 trying to. 11 Here we go. So Justin Baiardo is here. 12 And there he's coming in. 13 Justin -- when you -- is there anyone else 14 from your school that I need to add for this 15 section? 16 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: No, just me. 17 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. 18 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Thank you, Karen. 19 Madam Chair, members of the Commission, 20 good morning from Albuquerque. 21 I just want to first share that Zoom is 22 seems so easy; but we all know that it's not after 23 about a month doing this. And getting all together 24 and coordinated in this way, it just takes a lot of 25 work.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 And I just am really thankful for our team 2 collectively as we've gone through this process with 3 you-all. 4 We also wanted to just -- I just wanted to 5 provide a few -- a few updates as well. 6 First and foremost, I know I wasn't part 7 of any of the contract negotiations this week. But 8 I know that the PEC and Megan and Karen have been 9 working relentlessly to support our schools with 10 really strong mission goals and ensuring that we 11 have, you know, really -- really strong contracts in 12 place. 13 So I just wanted to thank you all for that 14 work and the amount of work that it takes to do it 15 online. And virtually versus in-person only just 16 compounds for all of you-all. So much appreciate 17 that work. 18 We also are working and coordinating with 19 our schools who had any financial audit findings 20 this past year. Our staff member, Melissa Sanchez, 21 is doing the follow-ups on ensuring that we have the 22 Corrective Action Plans that are in place for each 23 of those schools and may have an audit finding, and 24 also coordinating any feedback. So I wanted to 25 thank her for that much-important aspect of our</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 And so I just want to appreciate each of 2 you for getting -- getting through all the kinks. 3 And I especially thank Karen for the support and 4 technical advice that you've been giving throughout 5 this time. 6 I have a few updates that I wanted to 7 share. 8 First off, I wanted to share that, you 9 know, the Public Education Department and the 10 Charter School Division -- you know, if I could, 11 real quick -- I think, Karen -- I don't know 12 who's -- where the static is coming from. But it 13 might be Commissioner Davis, I think, if you could 14 mute yourself. 15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah. 16 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Great. Thank you so 17 much. 18 I just wanted to share that given the -- 19 the COVID-19 crisis that we're all in, our team, 20 both at the Charter School Division and the PED, 21 have been working as hard as we can to keep a sense 22 of normalcy in place and continue to support our 23 schools through this crisis, but also through the 24 business-as-usual stuff that doesn't go away during 25 these moments.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 work. 2 The technical assistance team is also 3 continuing to provide training. Thankfully, we had 4 a lot of experience before the current crisis with 5 online training this year. 6 (Commissioner Armbruster enters meeting.) 7 MR. ALAN BRAUER: And so Missy and Dylan 8 and Dolores have worked super-hard with our school 9 leaders and our governing boards to ensure that we 10 are able to continue a complete virtual training 11 process for the rest of this year. 12 We've also been coordinating with other 13 organizations, like the -- like the -- I just want 14 to say "the Coalition" -- but the Public Charter 15 Schools of New Mexico, who also were providing 16 training. So we've been syncing up very well around 17 this moment to make sure that that ongoing technical 18 assistance is just -- as great as it possibly can. 19 Our operations team is also working to 20 continue our business as usual in the back-office 21 aspects of our work. It's always a bit of a 22 challenge to get things signed through a virtual 23 setting. But I really appreciate the team and their 24 work in making sure that those processes and 25 documents that we need to be routed are continuing</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 to do that with as little hiccups as possible during 2 this time.</p> <p>3 Our charter school program team, I have a 4 really important announcement to make. We have a 5 new staff member that is taking over for Leslie 6 Kelly's position to lead the Charter School Program 7 Grant management. And her name is Dr. Brigitte 8 Russell. You may have worked with her in the past. 9 She was on the assessment team. She was a deputy 10 director there and just moved over starting last 11 week to join our team.</p> <p>12 Joining our team and making transitions in 13 a virtual setting not being able to see one another 14 or to really do a for-real on-boarding process is 15 something that has been challenging. But I just 16 really appreciate Brigitte in jumping right in.</p> <p>17 We had our annual performance report that 18 is -- that is due to the Feds as well for this 19 grant. And Brigitte worked with Tony and Val to 20 just make sure that no balls were dropped and that 21 we jumped right into that. And so I'm really 22 thankful for that.</p> <p>23 And we are continuing to process any 24 requests for reimbursements and other needs that our 25 CSP-granted schools have.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 What --</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Okay. I think I can start 3 with Justin. I think we're okay. 4 So, good morning, Justin.</p> <p>5 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Anyone have a quick 6 troubleshoot on this? I don't often look --</p> <p>7 THE CHAIR: The only problem is I think 8 it'll give all of us a headache as we --</p> <p>9 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yeah.</p> <p>10 MS. AMI JAEGER: Justin, this is Ami. You 11 can rotate the screen. If you go -- are you on a 12 computer or an iPad?</p> <p>13 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: On a computer. Oh, I 14 think I see it.</p> <p>15 MS. AMI JAEGER: It's at the bottom.</p> <p>16 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Under Video Settings, 17 right? It's --</p> <p>18 MS. AMI JAEGER: Yes. It'll say "Rotate." 19 And you might have to click it -- it only does it 20 for 90 degrees at a time, I think.</p> <p>21 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Got it.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Yeah. Yeah.</p> <p>23 MS. AMI JAEGER: Does that help?</p> <p>24 MR. ALAN BRAUER: I just wanted to share 25 that I think Karen's going to try to get back in.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 So I think those are all the main updates 2 that I wanted to share today. It is -- you know, 3 there's no two ways about it. It is challenging to 4 do all of our business with this type of setting, 5 but I just really appreciate all the work that our 6 team has been doing to make sure that we can be as 7 business-as-usual as possible and to provide the 8 supports that the PEC needs as well, and continuing 9 that partnership that we have with you-all, too.</p> <p>10 I do have one appreciation and highlight. 11 But I will -- I'll wait to close that out after we 12 discuss Explore Academy's item. And I believe 13 they're on the agenda to discuss their change in -- 14 in location.</p> <p>15 MS. FRIEDMAN: Madam Chair? Madam Chair? 16 THE CHAIR: Yeah.</p> <p>17 MS. FRIEDMAN: I'd like to mention that 18 Commissioner Armbruster has joined the meeting.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: Okay. 20 I can't -- Alan, if you're talking, I 21 can't hear -- oh.</p> <p>22 MR. ALAN BRAUER: You know, Madam Chair, 23 Karen just called me and said she doesn't know what 24 happened. So she just left -- she just called me. 25 So I'm talking with her right now on my cell phone.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 So she might be in the waiting room, potentially, if 2 you'll be able to get her in.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Let me see.</p> <p>4 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Ami, where was that? 5 It was under Video Settings?</p> <p>6 MS. AMI JAEGER: It should be under Video 7 Settings.</p> <p>8 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Oh, I see. There you 9 go. Yeah.</p> <p>10 MS. AMI JAEGER: Okay. Great.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Okay. And, Alan, so far I -- 12 I'm not listed as a host, so I can't do it. But, 13 Commissioner Ruiz, you are listed as a host.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay.</p> <p>15 THE CHAIR: So if you go down to your 16 participants list. But I don't see --</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay. What am I 18 looking for?</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: So look -- first, is there a 20 screen -- do you see a box for a waiting room?</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I don't. But, 22 remember, I'm on my iPad. I'm not on --</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: Oh. All right.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I'm on my iPad because 25 I can't get on with my laptop.</p>

Page 18

1 MR. ALAN BRAUER: You know what,  
2 Madam Chair and Commissioner Ruiz? It looks like  
3 Karen is back.

4 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yay, Karen.

5 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. I'm not listed as  
6 a host, so -- and Justin has righted himself. So  
7 all is good with the world so far.

8 So thanks for being here. And I guess it  
9 made it a little bit easier because you really  
10 didn't have to travel too far to come up. So I have  
11 less angst about asking you to be here.

12 And it's really just a little bit of  
13 clarifying, because when this first came in -- and  
14 it seems like a long time ago now that the  
15 information came in -- there really wasn't -- there  
16 was just the notification.

17 So I just had some -- just a "how come"  
18 and just for that. That's really all it is, to see  
19 how this might be different or, you know, what  
20 happened.

21 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Sure. Yeah.

22 So just to take a few steps back. Coming  
23 to you guys a few months ago with our neighboring  
24 facility that was for sale, it would allow us to  
25 expand our enrollment by roughly doubling the size,

Page 20

1 80,000-square-foot facility, which is double our  
2 size, which is what we were looking for in total  
3 square footage; but yet it is cheaper than the  
4 facility that we were purchasing as -- as our -- as  
5 our effort to double.

6 So when weighing an 80,000-square-foot  
7 facility and a 40,000-square-foot facility, and the  
8 80,000 one is cheaper -- and it's got a better  
9 layout. It's on more land. So we have always  
10 wanted to build a gym. This would allow us plenty  
11 of space and parking to do that, and also increase  
12 our outdoor space capacity.

13 It also puts us under one roof, where we  
14 can obviously benefit from having some of the same  
15 staff members in one place, rather than having two  
16 buildings, where you have to have, obviously, a  
17 front-desk person at each site. I mean, maybe not.  
18 Obviously, you have one main entrance. But you'd  
19 have to have someone to manage visitors that come in  
20 on either side, I guess.

21 And having to split across two buildings,  
22 obviously, they're adjacent to each other. So all  
23 that logistically, we felt, worked to the benefit of  
24 the school. But also the price.

25 Obviously, the financial well-being of the

Page 19

1 keeping our current facility and adding a facility  
2 of roughly equal size to bring us to approximately  
3 80,000 square feet.

4 During all that time -- and that was our  
5 full intention, obviously, having come to you guys  
6 and finalized the deal and everything. During that  
7 time, actually, almost, really, within a day or two  
8 after having come up to Santa Fe, a Realtor for a  
9 facility that's just down the street from us that we  
10 had looked at a few years ago reached out, out of  
11 the blue, and said that his facility, which was --  
12 which was under contract had fallen out of contract,  
13 and he wanted to know if we were still interested.

14 And of course I said, "No, we're  
15 already -- we already have a building and we're  
16 pending to expand to the building next door."

17 And he -- he approached it as, "Would you  
18 be willing to trade our building for your building?"  
19 In other words, his ownership would take our  
20 building, and we would take his building.

21 This new building is -- I guess it's only  
22 a mile away, so it really doesn't uproot any of our  
23 transportation. We're not putting our parents out  
24 by moving so far away.

25 But it is a -- on its own, it's an

Page 21

1 school in the long-term we feel would benefit from  
2 having a building that we can construct and build  
3 out more customized to what we want for the long  
4 term. It'll allow us to get about five or six more  
5 classrooms in this facility, versus what we'd be  
6 able to build out with the two facilities, at a  
7 cheaper price.

8 We're looking to save about almost  
9 \$400,000 in debt service per year going with this  
10 new facility, rather than keeping the facility we're  
11 in and adding a facility next to it.

12 So we felt like at the beginning it was an  
13 opportunity that we couldn't just dismiss; so we  
14 explored it. And then when -- upon hearing that  
15 their ownership would be willing to trade, it seemed  
16 like a good deal to consider.

17 So now that we've kind of gone down that  
18 path, we do feel like it is the deal that we want.  
19 And, obviously, it's not, like I said, uprooting our  
20 community more than a mile down the road; so it is  
21 something where we -- you know, we feel optimistic  
22 that it will give us what we need to grow into and  
23 not be so tight on our budget that we would have had  
24 to -- with the other cap increase, we were having to  
25 go up to about -- almost about 1,000 students to pay

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 for those two buildings.  2 With this facility, we could end up at  3 850, 900, even less, maybe, to be able to handle  4 that debt service, which is important for our  5 flexibility in terms of, you know, if we wanted to  6 not grow as much up to our cap limit and we wanted  7 to stay a little smaller, we'd have that  8 flexibility.  9 So in all ways we feel like this  10 opportunity was one that, like I said, we didn't  11 predict, but kind of fell in our lap days after  12 having your approval. And so it was one thing --  13 now that we've gone through the discussions with  14 them -- especially in the fact that it's a trade and  15 they would be taking our building -- now from their  16 standpoint, taking a smaller building, we -- and  17 they tried to look for a tenant that can occupy an  18 80,000-square-foot building. And they just --  19 there's not many tenants, unless you're a school,  20 that are willing to occupy such big buildings.  21 So they have not had luck finding a single  22 tenant or even joint tenants that would split the  23 building among two. For us, it works because we're  24 a school and we need that space. But for most  25 people it doesn't work.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 just asking, is there less -- is there a green space  2 that's close to this, because I know in your other  3 place that there isn't.  4 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yeah. There's the  5 existing green space that they have -- there's the  6 existing green space -- the company that occupied  7 that building had an outdoor space for their own  8 company events. There's a big field and a -- like,  9 a big canopy, like a covered seating area, that  10 already exists.  11 We would expand on that. But, at the very  12 minimum, we could use it as -- I mean, we would have  13 to get the sprinkler system back up and running. It  14 hasn't been used for about a year. But, yeah, the  15 outdoor space already is there. We would expand on  16 it. But at a minimum, yeah, there's significant  17 outdoor space already.  18 THE CHAIR: Great. And I think  19 Commissioner Robbins can help you with the sprinkler  20 system, because he's been home working on his; so --  21 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: There you go.  22 THE CHAIR: -- he might be a handy tool  23 for you.  24 So we're all gaining new skills as  25 we're -- as we're home, you know. YouTube has</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 So our building would work for them to  2 take on and potentially sell to an office user or  3 whoever it might. So, hopefully, that provides some  4 context as to why we are where we are and somewhat a  5 change in direction from what we came to you with a  6 few months ago.  7 THE CHAIR: Thanks. And I appreciate it.  8 And it's so rare that we have schools that have  9 options.  10 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yes.  11 THE CHAIR: So it's quite a unique  12 situation that you get into. And it's also great  13 that you've got that -- you don't have to carry as  14 big a debt.  15 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Right.  16 THE CHAIR: So that truly is important.  17 And I appreciate the -- the time that you're giving  18 us now so that we can get some clarity on that.  19 I'm glad to know that you can still follow  20 through with the idea of having the gym, because we  21 all know that that kind of space is really  22 important. And, unfortunately, a number of our  23 schools do lack it because of the physical  24 limitations that their school has for them.  25 So it's -- it's nice. So is there -- I'm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 turned into my best friend. So it's amazing what  2 you can learn on it.  3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Madam Chair?  4 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt?  5 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. I had my  6 hand up there. I'm going to put my hand down now.  7 So just curious, Justin. What was the  8 building that was there before? Was it, like,  9 Honeywell or --  10 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: It was a UTC  11 Aerospace facility.  12 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Okay.  13 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: So it's -- the  14 front -- about the front and one-third of the  15 building is office space, which we can utilize with  16 our middle-schoolers right now.  17 The back two-thirds -- I didn't mention  18 this in my explanation; I should probably mention  19 this. The back two-thirds will be constructed on  20 this summer and the fall.  21 So what they're allowing us to do is  22 keep -- keep our students at -- our high school  23 students at our current facility while that back  24 area is finished. And then, at that point in time,  25 we'll move our high-schoolers in with our</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 middle-schoolers at the new facility.  2 So we will have a separation in our  3 populations for the first few months of the school  4 year since the front third of the building can only  5 handle 150 students or 200 students, which is about  6 our middle-school population size.  7 So that will keep -- allow us to  8 transition and keep our high-school students at our  9 current location while we are finishing the -- the  10 construction to move them in in December or January.  11 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: You know, this --  12 it's so rare that an opportunity like this falls  13 into a school's lap. I think it's wonderful that --  14 and I think it's karmic that this is coming your  15 way. So congratulations. That's awesome.  16 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Thank you.  17 THE CHAIR: So, Commissioners, are there  18 any other questions?  19 (No response.)  20 THE CHAIR: Okay. So, once again, thanks.  21 And it's -- glad to see that you're safe. And,  22 hopefully, things are going as smoothly as can  23 [verbatim] with the plans that -- that you have to  24 do now to take care of kids and make sure they're  25 safe.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Ami weigh in. But we don't vote to approve a move.  2 It is part of the consent agenda as an  3 acknowledgment that we received the materials. But  4 I'll ask Ami if she feels --  5 MS. AMI JAEGER: Technically, it is an  6 amendment to their charter contract. We just do it  7 by the process of a notification. Usually, it's an  8 expedited review by the Public Education Commission,  9 which is why we generally put it on the consent  10 agenda. But, still, it is registered as a vote for  11 approval or denial by the Commissioners. So I think  12 it's important to have a motion.  13 THE CHAIR: Sure. So, Commissioner Ruiz,  14 will you please do roll call?  15 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: We haven't had a  16 motion yet, have we?  17 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I move for  18 approval.  19 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll second.  20 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by  21 Commissioner Robbins, a second by Commissioner  22 Voigt.  23 Commissioner Ruiz?  24 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay. Commissioner  25 Robbins?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 So we truly do appreciate what you're  2 having to do now as -- you know, I've been saying  3 all week because we've been in contract  4 negotiations, "No day is normal in a school."  5 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Right.  6 THE CHAIR: But this has really changed a  7 new normal. So we appreciate everything your school  8 community is doing for your kids during this time.  9 And, hopefully, in the near future, we can -- we can  10 be back live.  11 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Right.  12 THE CHAIR: So thanks.  13 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Yes.  14 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, I think  15 Karen has her hand raised.  16 THE CHAIR: Sorry. I was looking at my  17 agenda.  18 MS. KAREN WOERNER: No worries. Thank  19 you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Alan.  20 Madam Chair, since we moved this from the  21 consent agenda, is a vote necessary, since it wasn't  22 voted on as part of the consent agenda, for the new  23 location change? Or is it --  24 THE CHAIR: Probably. Probably. Because  25 we do -- well, we don't vote -- and I'm going to let</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.  2 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt?  3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.  4 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt?  5 I'm having a delay.  6 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. I'm sorry.  7 Commissioner Armbruster?  8 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes.  9 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay.  10 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes.  11 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Davis?  12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.  13 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Commissioner  14 Chavez?  15 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.  16 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Gipson?  17 THE CHAIR: Yes.  18 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Raftery?  19 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes.  20 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Crone?  21 COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes.  22 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Ruiz  23 votes "Yes."  24 And Commissioner Caballero. Commissioner  25 Caballero?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes.  2 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I think he's muted.  3 Okay. So we have ten --  4 THE CHAIR: The motion passed, ten-zero.  5 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Ten -- ten votes  6 and -- yes.  7 THE CHAIR: I think Commissioner Ruiz is  8 having some connection issues. You keep freezing on  9 us.  10 So, Justin, thank you very much. And  11 congratulations with this. It's -- it's exciting  12 when schools are truly landing in good places with  13 their facilities. So -- and good luck with your  14 construction deadline.  15 MR. JUSTIN BAIARDO: Thank you. Yeah.  16 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Justin, I'm going to  17 move you to the attendees list. So if you stay on,  18 you'll still be listening if you want to. Thank  19 you.  20 THE CHAIR: So we are now on to 4 D.  21 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Oh, great. Thank you,  22 Madam Chair, members of the Commission.  23 For the highlights and appreciations for  24 today's meeting, I wanted to appreciate and  25 highlight every single one of the State-authorized</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 I just wanted to just appreciate each of  2 the [inaudible] that you all [inaudible] --  3 THE CHAIR: Okay, Alan. Sorry. That  4 didn't fix it.  5 MR. ALAN BRAUER: How about now? Does  6 that sound better?  7 Okay. I'll be -- I'll be super-brief. I  8 don't want to -- I don't want to give the schools  9 short shrift. But I just wanted to mention that  10 their continuous learning plans were really strong  11 supporting their high-school students, if they have  12 them, making sure that we're taking care of the  13 social-emotional needs of our students and their  14 families right now, and also ensuring that there is  15 high quality academics that are still continuing  16 throughout this year.  17 And I think each of the schools' plans  18 that I had a chance to review [inaudible] attempt  19 [inaudible]. And I -- I just wanted to thank each  20 of those schools for sure.  21 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.  22 And, Alan, if I can just go back briefly,  23 because you mentioned that the Charter School  24 Division is doing a review of the audits, which we  25 hadn't received. And you're looking at the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 charter schools and the district-authorized charter  2 schools that have been working over the last two  3 weeks to create highly effective, continuous  4 learning plans.  5 Over the last two weeks prior to this one,  6 I spent a lot of time reviewing each of the -- each  7 of the State-authorized charter schools' continuous  8 learning plans and most of the district-authorized  9 continuous learning plans. And it was just  10 really -- it was just really [inaudible] the amount  11 of intense work that our schools have been putting  12 into trying to keep the -- the sense of normalcy --  13 and --  14 THE CHAIR: Okay, Alan. Let me interrupt  15 for a second. I don't know if it's us or you. But  16 you're really breaking up.  17 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I think it would help  18 if everybody muted themselves while someone's  19 talking.  20 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Can you guys hear me  21 now?  22 THE CHAIR: Yes.  23 MR. ALAN BRAUER: All right. I took my  24 video off just to be sure that I have the throttle  25 up.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 Corrective Action Plan -- the Corrective Action  2 Plans that they provided.  3 If we could, at some point in time, get  4 those? And for several of our schools, they  5 actually have, in our motion for renewal, a  6 requirement for a Corrective Action Plan for  7 financial reasons. So it would be really helpful to  8 be able to see those, because I think we've  9 mentioned before; it would just make sense if that  10 is complete enough for our purposes.  11 There's no sense in them having to rewrite  12 another Corrective Action Plan. We could simply  13 adopt that Corrective Action Plan and set up our  14 own, just, target dates for reporting on it. That  15 would be -- that would be the easiest, without a  16 doubt, for the school to be able to do that.  17 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Madam Chair, members of  18 the Commission, absolutely. Once we receive --  19 we're almost -- we almost have received all of them.  20 And once we -- we want to make sure, by the end of  21 next week at the very latest, we receive each of  22 those.  23 And so we're in the final follow-ups with  24 their business managers. And once we compile all of  25 them, we'll provide those to the Commission for</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 sure.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Great. Thanks. I appreciate</p> <p>3 it.</p> <p>4 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Absolutely.</p> <p>5 THE CHAIR: Karen?</p> <p>6 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Yeah. Thank you. I</p> <p>7 just wanted to just add a note that there's some</p> <p>8 folks on the line from Alma d'Arte. And I just</p> <p>9 wanted to confirm for their sake that you had</p> <p>10 removed them from the Concerns list and that they</p> <p>11 have been -- that the consent agenda items were</p> <p>12 approved, so that in case they're on the line</p> <p>13 waiting for that, I just wanted to confirm that you</p> <p>14 did remove that, Madam Chair, from the agenda, since</p> <p>15 I see them still on the attendees list.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: Right. Okay. Thanks. We are</p> <p>17 now on to Item No. 5, which is Discussion and</p> <p>18 Possible Action on Amendment Request for an</p> <p>19 Enrollment Cap Increase for Taos Integrated School</p> <p>20 of the Arts.</p> <p>21 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So I'm adding Rich</p> <p>22 Greywolf, the head administrator of that school. He</p> <p>23 should be joining here. And Rich can tell me what</p> <p>24 other members of his team are on the list, once he's</p> <p>25 able to unmute himself and tell me.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 time.</p> <p>2 So I'm going to turn it over, I guess,</p> <p>3 very quickly to CSD if there's anything that they</p> <p>4 wish to -- any additional information or anything</p> <p>5 that you want to say regarding the enrollment cap</p> <p>6 before the school can present.</p> <p>7 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Alan, is that for me</p> <p>8 or -- okay. I was looking to see what page. Sorry.</p> <p>9 I'm not on the correct page number in your packets,</p> <p>10 Commissioners.</p> <p>11 But the -- the review is complete. Hold</p> <p>12 on. Sorry. All the information was received. And</p> <p>13 in your packet, on -- I can't find the page. I'm so</p> <p>14 sorry.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I think it's Page 182</p> <p>16 in the packet.</p> <p>17 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Thank you. Yeah. So</p> <p>18 it starts on Page 180 is the form. Dylan Wilson</p> <p>19 from our team has done the review, and all paperwork</p> <p>20 has been submitted.</p> <p>21 The school is asking to increase its</p> <p>22 enrollment from 180 to 216. And as you see, from</p> <p>23 180 on is the packet that was submitted and the data</p> <p>24 that shows the school reports and grades with an</p> <p>25 upward trend in their performance and other</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: We have Julee</p> <p>2 LaMure. There should be Linda Seto. Patsy Kinney.</p> <p>3 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. Julie and Linda</p> <p>4 are coming in. And the last one was?</p> <p>5 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Patsy Kinney.</p> <p>6 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Her name is not on the</p> <p>7 list. Perhaps she's calling in on the phone.</p> <p>8 There's one call-in user I don't recognize. Should</p> <p>9 I add them and see if that's her?</p> <p>10 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Yeah. Add them and</p> <p>11 see if it's her. She did tell me she didn't have</p> <p>12 difficulty; so...</p> <p>13 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So Call-In User 2? Is</p> <p>14 that Patsy? Identify yourself if you are.</p> <p>15 I guess not. That person is not talking.</p> <p>16 So...</p> <p>17 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Not a problem. We</p> <p>18 can go with the three that we currently have, just</p> <p>19 the three of us.</p> <p>20 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. So,</p> <p>21 Madam Chair, you're muted.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Yeah. I know. Sorry. I</p> <p>23 was -- so, Rich, thank you so much for coming. And</p> <p>24 this is the second time we have the opportunity to</p> <p>25 talk with you this week. So we appreciate this</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 supporting documents there.</p> <p>2 So I think the CSD staff finds that it's</p> <p>3 complete and would recommend approval.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIR: Okay. So, Rich, thanks once</p> <p>5 again. And I'll let the school identify any key</p> <p>6 points that they feel they would like to right now.</p> <p>7 I'm sorry.</p> <p>8 Commissioner Robbins, you want to say</p> <p>9 something?</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I just wanted to</p> <p>11 ask about E-Occupancy, if they have sufficient</p> <p>12 numbers in E-Occupancy.</p> <p>13 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Yes, we do. But</p> <p>14 Karen could speak to that. She has the document in</p> <p>15 front of her.</p> <p>16 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Commissioner Robbins,</p> <p>17 Madam Chair, the occupancy load from the school, as</p> <p>18 provided by the fire marshal, is at 297. So it does</p> <p>19 exceed the request that they're making.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Thank you.</p> <p>21 THE CHAIR: Okay, Rich.</p> <p>22 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Certainly. You</p> <p>23 know, the -- I think it's twofold, the reason why we</p> <p>24 wanted to grow. Number one, it is because, I think</p> <p>25 primarily, budgetarily, with the budget cuts and the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 Small School Size going away, we were trying to 2 figure out a way to make sure that we would be able 3 to make -- make sure that we'd be able to provide 4 the same kind of service that we have been providing 5 for our students and our families. 6 The second is is that we do -- we do note, 7 even though we've made an upward trend with 8 diversity in our school, one of the problems that 9 we've had is not having that -- having that cap has 10 not allowed us to bring in new families and new 11 people into the community so that we could have 12 something that was more reflective of our community. 13 Julie, did you want to say anything? 14 MS. JULEE LaMURE: Excuse me. That's -- 15 that's the biggest piece. We need to make our 16 school available to more people in the community. 17 From a personal standpoint, I'd really like my son 18 to get into this school. So I have a personal 19 interest in expanding class size. 20 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. And, you know, 21 I do appreciate that point. I think we do have a 22 number of schools that have been in existence for a 23 while, and they were stymied in being able to 24 achieve a greater diversity because the cap and the 25 sibling preference kind of limited, then, the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 your name that spoke after Principal Greywolf. 2 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Julee LaMure. 3 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Julee. Thank you. 4 Julee, you said you were going to increase class 5 size. Did you mean school size or individual PTR -- 6 parent -- student ratios to teachers. 7 MS. JULEE LaMURE: Both, eventually. 8 Right now, we're looking to just expand the class 9 size just a little bit. Our long-term goal is to 10 add grades and go up through high school. But 11 that -- you know, that involves a new building and 12 things like that. 13 So, right now, we're actually going to -- 14 just a little bit larger class size. 15 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: What's your 16 teacher-student ratio at right now? 17 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: That would be one 18 to 20. 19 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: What do you 20 anticipate that increase might have to be? 21 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: That would be one 22 to 24. And so -- and we did do a lot of discussion 23 with staff talking about it, you know. There was -- 24 you know, I don't think anybody wants to -- if we 25 look at the data and the things that are out there,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 opportunity for many others to come in; 'cause we've 2 had one or two other schools say that their 3 diversity has been somewhat limited by that 4 enrollment cap. 5 So -- and I apologize for not remembering 6 this from earlier in the week. Rich, you do have to 7 do a lottery every year? 8 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Yes, we do. And 9 our lottery is coming up next week. 10 THE CHAIR: Okay. Great. Great. And 11 that helps to inform the decision as well that you 12 do. And I know you've spoken often about the fact 13 that it's a -- it's a choice that many people in 14 your community have expressed an interest in their 15 children going to, so I appreciate that as well. 16 And Commissioner Voigt wanted to say 17 something. 18 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. I'll put 19 my hand down now. 20 Okay. First of all, it's great to see 21 that you are meeting -- trying to meet your 22 community's needs and that you have the 23 sustainability behind that in order to make that 24 happen. 25 I just had a question from -- I forget</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 they say, time and time again, What is the 2 mitigating factor of what makes a good school? It's 3 small class size. 4 We -- we're trying -- what we did was when 5 we were running the numbers, we were trying to find 6 a class size that would be both manageable, and, at 7 the same time, would meet the requirements that our 8 needs of -- you know, of funding. 9 So we felt that that 24 was that kind of 10 magic number, where we had enough that we were going 11 to be able to exist without Small School funding, 12 and, at the same time, it wasn't so much the strain 13 on our -- on our scholastic environment. 14 MS. JULEE LaMURE: And I might add, the 15 first -- the primary thing that pointed us in that 16 direction had to do with budgeting. It's not ideal, 17 as Rich pointed out. Smaller class sizes is always 18 preferable. But from a budgeting standpoint, we 19 really had to do it. We just have to. 20 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yeah, I fully 21 understand that challenge of student size, school 22 size, funding. So -- but thank you. I think that's 23 not a horrible class size. That looks totally 24 doable. And it's great that you do have that 25 built-in sustainability within the cornerstones of</p>

Page 42

1 your school to make that happen.  
 2 Thank you.  
 3 THE CHAIR: Right. Thanks. And I do  
 4 remember that we had a pretty deep discussion about  
 5 this when we were doing the ed program piece in the  
 6 contract negotiations. Because, originally, that  
 7 was -- the number was in the ed programming.  
 8 So -- and I do appreciate the deep  
 9 discussion that the schools have had in regards to  
 10 this, because it is a challenge for all of our  
 11 smaller -- all of those schools that are just on the  
 12 cusp. It's, like, Where do we go? Do we stay with  
 13 the small, or do we just add that smaller number so  
 14 that we get over that -- that hump?  
 15 So it's -- and that's -- that's up to the  
 16 individual school to decide, you know, if you can  
 17 maintain your -- your mission and still be able to  
 18 grow a little bit. And it's nice to know that  
 19 you've got that long-term plan as well. So  
 20 interesting to see how that works out as well.  
 21 So...  
 22 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I just want to add  
 23 real quick that this Small School Size threat is  
 24 going to -- it really is going to perpetuate more  
 25 advocacy around charter schools. Because it's --

Page 43

1 everyone's feeling it. And so I know there's going  
 2 to be some opportunity coming up, hopefully in the  
 3 next few months.  
 4 But -- so I understand the challenge that  
 5 you're going through with that Small School Size,  
 6 and I hope that -- as charter school advocates, that  
 7 there will be more action that we can all  
 8 participate in in the future.  
 9 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Thank you,  
 10 Commissioner Voigt.  
 11 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, are there any  
 12 other questions or concerns?  
 13 (No response.)  
 14 THE CHAIR: If not, I'll entertain a  
 15 motion.  
 16 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Madam Chair, I  
 17 would move for approval for the increase in the  
 18 small -- or the enrollment cap for the Taos  
 19 integrated School for the Arts.  
 20 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll second.  
 21 THE CHAIR: I just wanted to go back. I  
 22 think it's important in the motion to have the exact  
 23 number.  
 24 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: From what to what,  
 25 yes.

Page 44

1 THE CHAIR: Yeah. So I'm just looking for  
 2 that real quick, just to double-check that we're  
 3 accurate with it.  
 4 So, Karen, can you -- do you have that  
 5 quick at hand so we can put that in the motion?  
 6 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I have it. It's from  
 7 180 to 218.  
 8 THE CHAIR: Okay. So, Commissioner  
 9 Robbins, could you amend your motion, please?  
 10 MS. AMI JAEGER: I'm so sorry to  
 11 interrupt. But on the document that was submitted  
 12 by the school, it's two-one-six, 216.  
 13 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Oh, yeah.  
 14 Two-one-six. 216.  
 15 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Thank you. That is  
 16 correct. It's 216.  
 17 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I would move for  
 18 approval for the increase in the cap from 180 to  
 19 216, the Taos integrated School for the Arts.  
 20 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll second.  
 21 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by  
 22 Commissioner Robbins and a second by Commissioner  
 23 Voigt.  
 24 Is there any additional discussion?  
 25 (No response.)

Page 45

1 THE CHAIR: If not, Commissioner Ruiz,  
 2 roll call, please?  
 3 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Robbins?  
 4 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes.  
 5 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt?  
 6 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes.  
 7 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner  
 8 Armbruster?  
 9 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes.  
 10 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Davis?  
 11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.  
 12 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Chavez?  
 13 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes.  
 14 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Gipson?  
 15 THE CHAIR: Yes.  
 16 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Raftery?  
 17 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes.  
 18 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner --  
 19 Commissioner Crone?  
 20 COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes.  
 21 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: And Commissioner Ruiz  
 22 is a "Yes." (Inaudible.)  
 23 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Ruiz, you're  
 24 breaking up. I don't know whether he heard you.  
 25 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 Caballero?</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: No, I didn't hear</p> <p>3 you. Yes.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Okay. The motion</p> <p>5 passes, ten-zero.</p> <p>6 THE CHAIR: Okay. Motion passed,</p> <p>7 ten-zero. Congratulations. And, hopefully, you</p> <p>8 have a great start to this next school year.</p> <p>9 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: Thank you so much.</p> <p>10 We appreciate it.</p> <p>11 MS. JULEE LaMURE: Yeah. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. RICHARD GREYWOLF: I'm hoping that we</p> <p>13 get to start in August. That's my hope.</p> <p>14 THE CHAIR: Yes. Thanks so much.</p> <p>15 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So folks from TISA,</p> <p>16 I'm going to remove you from the panelists list and</p> <p>17 move you back into the attendees, if you want to</p> <p>18 continue to listen. But I'm going to move you out</p> <p>19 of this meeting. So hold on.</p> <p>20 THE CHAIR: Karen, are you going to move</p> <p>21 Hózhó in?</p> <p>22 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: Okay.</p> <p>24 So while Karen is doing that, we are</p> <p>25 moving on to Item No. 6, which is Discussion and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 So just so that you know, when I checked</p> <p>2 the school's website, I saw that the website had</p> <p>3 indicated that the move was going to take place for</p> <p>4 this upcoming school year. So that became an even</p> <p>5 greater concern, because we had no idea that this</p> <p>6 was occurring.</p> <p>7 And there were some concerns around -- in</p> <p>8 addition to the Foundation, because it appeared in</p> <p>9 the papers that the Foundation was funding this.</p> <p>10 But then when I did research on the Foundation, I</p> <p>11 couldn't find any IRS filings, which tended -- as</p> <p>12 far as I know, indicates that the Foundation doesn't</p> <p>13 have enough funds to have to file, so that I didn't</p> <p>14 know how the Foundation that had no money was going</p> <p>15 to fund the -- the building.</p> <p>16 So there were just a lot of questions.</p> <p>17 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Right. Well, I</p> <p>18 think to -- to start to address that, just to let</p> <p>19 you know right now, there is no plan in place to</p> <p>20 move right away out of our current location;</p> <p>21 although we have grown, and we will need to look at</p> <p>22 some options for the near future, because we</p> <p>23 opened -- last year was our first year.</p> <p>24 We opened with 110 students. By the end</p> <p>25 of the year, we had 178. We opened with about 238</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 Possible Action on change in location for Hózhó</p> <p>2 Academy.</p> <p>3 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So we have -- I think</p> <p>4 all the school is gone now. So we'll add -- Juliane</p> <p>5 Hillock is the school administrator, and I know that</p> <p>6 Dan Hill is joining her.</p> <p>7 Juliane, unmute yourself and tell me if</p> <p>8 there's anyone else from your school that's joining</p> <p>9 besides Dan.</p> <p>10 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: No, just Dan.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: And we need the record to</p> <p>12 reflect that Commissioner Chavez has apparently</p> <p>13 stepped away.</p> <p>14 So, good morning.</p> <p>15 MS. JULILANE HILLOCK: Good morning.</p> <p>16 THE CHAIR: And thanks for bearing with</p> <p>17 our having to reschedule this from the meeting that</p> <p>18 unfortunately we did have to cancel last month. So</p> <p>19 we appreciate this.</p> <p>20 And we just had a number of questions,</p> <p>21 because I think there were a number of us that had</p> <p>22 been approached by various newspapers and</p> <p>23 legislators. And we saw articles -- I know I saw</p> <p>24 articles in the newspaper myself about this move.</p> <p>25 And we were unaware that a move was going to happen.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 this year, and we are currently at about 305 with</p> <p>2 our enrollment, and we have 50 kindergarten students</p> <p>3 enrolled for next year. And we add a grade level</p> <p>4 every year. So our enrollment is growing. So we</p> <p>5 are going to have to look at some options.</p> <p>6 So Gallup is a small town. And when</p> <p>7 something happens, everybody -- it becomes</p> <p>8 everybody's business, and everybody wants</p> <p>9 information about it. And there was talk of the --</p> <p>10 the Equitas Foundation looking into some options for</p> <p>11 us in the community in order to be able to grow.</p> <p>12 And there was a school that had some</p> <p>13 potential that was going to close or move to another</p> <p>14 location. And, unfortunately, I think that there</p> <p>15 were a number of people in the community for whom</p> <p>16 that wasn't a popular idea because they weren't</p> <p>17 necessarily wanting to move to another location. So</p> <p>18 I think that stirred up a number of things.</p> <p>19 And then there was a push, I think, on</p> <p>20 their end to share that information and to get that</p> <p>21 word out to the community. And then it -- we have</p> <p>22 not entered into any agreement -- the Foundation has</p> <p>23 not secured any loan as of yet; although these</p> <p>24 things are still potential on the horizon.</p> <p>25 But, unfortunately, because of the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 COVID-19 situation and other situations that are 2 going on, that hasn't actually happened yet. And if 3 it does, of course we will follow the protocol and 4 alert you about what our potential is for that -- 5 for the possibility for that move. 6 I know we will need to do something, 7 because we've outgrown our current location. And we 8 will have to apply in order to just add some 9 portables to our location. So that's something we 10 will have to notify you about formally. 11 THE CHAIR: Juliane, can I just interrupt 12 for just a second? I didn't -- it was my fault. I 13 should have also included that in the concern. 14 Because you did, in fact, add portables without 15 letting us know already. Because CSD was kind of 16 surprised, I understand, when they went out and saw 17 the portables. So that is an additional concern 18 that we had. 19 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Right. And I 20 apologize for that. I wasn't aware -- when I looked 21 at the form, it said when you were changing your 22 address, you needed to notify. I apologize. That's 23 my mistake. That's why we have Dan Hill with us, 24 too, because, hopefully, I won't make more mistakes 25 if I can loop Dan in on some of this.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 they did not. 2 And then with regard to the potential for 3 a new facility, you know, I think "potential" is the 4 key word there of -- you know, there's a foundation 5 that's -- you know, we're thankful is trying to help 6 with this. But we're really not at a place to have 7 negotiation for any sort of lease or 8 lease-to-purchase arrangement at this point. 9 We need to be very clear. Next year, 10 school will start at the current facility with 11 potentially the addition of some portables. And if 12 that's the case, then we'll make sure we follow 13 through with the notification to the Commission so 14 that you guys have notice of that before, you know, 15 we occupy them and that we can get it on your agenda 16 before that takes place. 17 And then if -- you know, if -- if things 18 with the new building go forward, we'll let you know 19 as soon as -- as soon as there's anything actionable 20 on our end and get the process moving with you-all 21 on that as well. 22 And then in terms of questions about the 23 Foundation, I don't represent the Foundation. I 24 couldn't tell you, you know, anything about it. I 25 think we can follow up with them and see if they can</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 We stayed in the same location and 2 added -- well, the portables were already here. We 3 just occupied them. We had not occupied them 4 before. We did not bring anything in. There were 5 some portables that had not been used, and we began 6 to use them. 7 THE CHAIR: And I apologize. Our ultimate 8 concern always is to make sure that there is 9 E-Occupancy and everything is in place so that we 10 have to make sure that the facilities are safe for 11 the kids to be in. 12 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Right. 13 MR. DAN HILL: Madam Chair, this is Dan 14 Hill, counsel for the school. Just want to 15 reiterate what Juliane said. The school, I think, 16 was a little confused that they weren't changing 17 their address, so they didn't think they needed to 18 fill out the form. 19 It was an honest mistake, one that we all 20 regret, and we certainly weren't trying to prevent 21 the Commission from having notice. And also, just 22 want to make clear, that the portables that they 23 occupied do have E-Occupancy. They went through 24 that process -- you know, they thought they covered 25 all their bases, but, obviously, since we're here,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 submit to you their -- their 990s or whatever forms 2 they have in terms of their 501(c)(3) status. We're 3 certainly happy to follow up on that. 4 It's just -- we don't -- they're not -- 5 we're not the Foundation, and so we don't have that 6 information for you at this moment. 7 THE CHAIR: Right. And I understand that 8 you don't represent the Foundation. And I don't 9 think this would have been as pressing an issue if, 10 on the school's website, it didn't say, "We're 11 moving in August." 12 So that's where it really -- you know, 13 when -- after I had gotten a number of calls and saw 14 a couple of articles, and it's, like, "Well..." -- 15 you know. And I understand the community. So -- 16 and I get how that sometimes gets blown out of 17 proportion at times. 18 But then when the school was showing on 19 their website that they were moving, that kind of 20 cemented the idea that this was -- you know, this 21 was on track as a "go." 22 So I appreciate all of this clarity. And 23 I also appreciate the fact that, unfortunately for 24 schools, it looks like they're getting a ding. But 25 it does indicate to us where we may have to make</p>

Page 54

1 changes and clarify our notification processes.  
 2 And, actually, it was on our agenda for last month  
 3 for the Work Session to do this, and then all of  
 4 this came about.  
 5 But it is -- it's important for us to know  
 6 that we're being as clear as we can in what the  
 7 schools have to do and the processes as well.  
 8 So I apologize for any part that we also  
 9 have in the misunderstanding. And I -- it's -- it's  
 10 clear to me where we have to make some changes on  
 11 our end.  
 12 So I appreciate that. And we will --  
 13 we'll work on it, because we want to make sure that  
 14 schools don't end up getting their hand slapped when  
 15 we were part of why it's happening.  
 16 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: I appreciate  
 17 everyone's support of our school. I'm very excited  
 18 to be in New Mexico and love our little school. And  
 19 so I just wanted to -- even in all of this stress  
 20 and drama with this -- with the closures, I'm really  
 21 excited about being a part of education in  
 22 New Mexico.  
 23 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. And,  
 24 Commissioner Davis has a question.  
 25 You're muted.

Page 55

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. I think I'm  
 2 good. I wanted to introduce myself, because you are  
 3 in my district. And I really feel badly that I have  
 4 not had an opportunity to visit you. But maybe in  
 5 the future we could work out a time. I'm in Aztec.  
 6 So, you know, we do have a time thing going on. But  
 7 I really would like to come and visit you.  
 8 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Yes. And I welcome  
 9 everybody to come. I'm very proud of our school.  
 10 Karen has been there, and she's the only familiar  
 11 face. So I would like to know more of you and  
 12 welcome all of you to come to our school and see  
 13 what things we're doing and how we're growing.  
 14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.  
 15 THE CHAIR: Thanks. And I always enjoy an  
 16 opportunity to get out to Gallup. It's one of my  
 17 favorite places. And it's a drive that I always  
 18 like to make.  
 19 So, hopefully, sometime in the fairly near  
 20 future, we can all -- actually, not only be on the  
 21 road, but be able to get out of our cars once we're  
 22 driving somewhere; so...  
 23 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Right.  
 24 THE CHAIR: Thanks. And I appreciate the  
 25 time. And I guess it's a little bit easier this

Page 56

1 month because you didn't have to -- to travel to get  
 2 to us.  
 3 But I do appreciate the -- the clarity,  
 4 because it does -- it makes it better for us, and it  
 5 also makes it easier, so that when I do get those  
 6 calls, I can have a little more information and  
 7 hopefully help to put out some of the fires.  
 8 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Thank you.  
 9 THE CHAIR: So thanks very much for your  
 10 time.  
 11 MS. JULIANE HILLOCK: Thank you very much.  
 12 MR. DAN HILL: Thank you.  
 13 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, can I ask for a  
 14 short break?  
 15 (A discussion was held off the record.)  
 16 (Recess taken, 10:10 a.m. to 10:22 a.m.)  
 17 THE CHAIR: Okay. So everyone is back.  
 18 And we are on to Item No. 7, which is Briefing and  
 19 Discussion on the Appeal Decision for Turquoise  
 20 Trail Charter School.  
 21 MR. MARK CHAIKEN: Good morning,  
 22 Commissioners, and I hope everyone is staying well.  
 23 I know we've all been behind our desks for many  
 24 hours this week.  
 25 So we received the decision in Turquoise

Page 57

1 Trail Charter School -- yeah. Sorry. I was just  
 2 looking for the date. So we received that.  
 3 MS. AMI JAEGER: I think the 26th of  
 4 March.  
 5 MR. MARK CHAIKEN: Yeah, that sounds  
 6 right.  
 7 So the issue here was -- sorry. I just  
 8 want to make sure I say it right -- was the  
 9 third-tier enrollment preference imposed by  
 10 Turquoise Trail.  
 11 And as you may recall, because Santa Fe  
 12 Public School District is their landlord and they're  
 13 occupying a building formerly part of the Santa Fe  
 14 Public School system. And the District threatened  
 15 to terminate their lease. And as part of the  
 16 negotiation to avoid that termination, the charter  
 17 school agreed to this third-tier enrollment  
 18 preference for people who were living in the  
 19 District -- or what was the former boundaries of  
 20 that District for that school.  
 21 It's not in the statute. The school  
 22 argued that it was permissible under the statutory  
 23 scheme. They also had a due process argument saying  
 24 that they didn't get enough notice that this would  
 25 be a condition on their renewal, despite their

Page 58

1 inquiries.

2 So, very simply, the Secretary agreed with

3 you, with the Commission, that this was not a

4 permissible third-tier preference. The only

5 enrollment preferences allowed for charter schools

6 are the two that are listed in the statute, which is

7 either you are already in the school or related,

8 essentially, to someone who is. So there's a

9 sibling preference.

10 Those are the only ones that are allowed.

11 And that the school did receive sufficient notice

12 that this was an issue, and that, therefore, you

13 acted in accordance with law and -- in your

14 decision, which was unanimous, nine-zero. You did

15 not act arbitrarily and capriciously.

16 The only thing that the Secretary did is

17 did follow CSD's recommendation that the school be

18 given an additional year in which to try to work

19 this out.

20 So the removal -- the condition doesn't

21 really kick into effect until June 30th, 2021,

22 rather than June 30th, 2020, this year.

23 So that third-tier enrollment preference

24 will be out there for that first year of the charter

25 renewal. It appears from the -- what we learned

Page 59

1 during the contract negotiations that it's not

2 really a live issue, but it hasn't come into play.

3 And the only other thing I would say is

4 that the school does have the right to appeal this

5 decision. That, I believe, expires on April 25th.

6 That's 30 days. So we may yet hear in the next week

7 or so -- yeah, just over a week -- that they are

8 appealing.

9 We would not be a party. The Commission

10 would not be a party to that appeal. The appeal

11 would be against the Secretary. But we would make

12 sure that we intervened -- it's a technical legal

13 word -- you file a motion to intervene. Because any

14 decision a district court would make would affect

15 the Commission and require the Commission to take

16 certain action.

17 So we would feel it important for the

18 Commission to have a voice in any proceeding in

19 district court.

20 So with that, that's our report, and if

21 you have any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

22 THE CHAIR: Commissioners, any questions?

23 (No response.)

24 THE CHAIR: Okay. If not, thank you very

25 much. And thank you for all the work that you put

Page 60

1 in to getting us to this -- and through this appeal

2 hearing.

3 MR. MARK CHAIKEN: Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: So we appreciate that.

5 MR. MARK CHAIKEN: It was a pleasure.

6 THE CHAIR: And just so -- most

7 Commissioners were involved. But we did, and are,

8 addressing this as well in the new contract coming

9 up. So we'll be voting on that hopefully in June.

10 So -- and by June, we'll certainly know if there has

11 been an appeal that has been filed.

12 So thanks once again.

13 So we are moving on to item No. 7, which

14 is Briefing and Discussion -- oh, I'm sorry -- Item

15 No. 8, Discussion and Possible Action on the

16 Corrective Action Plan for La Academia Dolores

17 Huerta.

18 So let me just take a moment. The school

19 did reach out to me. And this was on my mind as

20 well because of what has occurred over the past

21 month. It -- oh, Karen. I'm sorry. Oh, yeah. You

22 need to move them in? Sorry.

23 MS. KAREN WOERNER: If -- I was just

24 wanting to ask if I should allow the school in.

25 Thank you.

Page 61

1 THE CHAIR: Yes. Sorry. Can they still

2 hear me while you're moving them in? Or no?

3 MS. KAREN WOERNER: I don't know during

4 the switch if they can.

5 THE CHAIR: Okay. I'll wait.

6 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Sylvy is now able to

7 talk. Sylvy, can you hear us?

8 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: Yes, I am able to

9 hear you, and I have some other members of my staff

10 here as well.

11 MS. KAREN WOERNER: And are they with you

12 physically, or do I need to add them from the list?

13 Do you want to identify who's with you,

14 Sylvy?

15 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: Yes. I have Robert

16 Velasquez, our GC member. I have Michelle Paz, our

17 assistant principal; Mima Rodriguez, our financial

18 and business manager; and then myself.

19 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. And welcome.

21 I was just doing a brief introduction for the

22 Commission. And, certainly, if the school wishes to

23 say something, you'll have an ample opportunity to

24 let the Commission know anything that you feel is

25 also important.

Page 62

1 But as the events of the past month  
 2 started to play out, I certainly recognize the fact  
 3 that closing out a school's CAP successfully was  
 4 going to be very difficult, because the school was  
 5 not going to be able to administer the second round  
 6 of the Short Cycle Assessments or the third round.  
 7 They did a beginning-of-the-year, which  
 8 kind of made -- and a middle-of-the-year. But they  
 9 were not going to be able to do an end-of-the-year  
 10 assessment. And that's not through any fault of the  
 11 school that they're not going to administer -- be  
 12 able to administer that Short Cycle Assessment, so  
 13 that becomes somewhat problematic for us and for the  
 14 school.  
 15 And the school did reach out to me and  
 16 express that concern. And that is why we did put it  
 17 on the agenda.  
 18 If you remember, the school was up here --  
 19 I think that was our last live meeting, I think. So  
 20 the school was up here because we had an update on  
 21 the CAP. And we did remark that the school did a  
 22 good job of seeing growth with their reading scores,  
 23 but we did express a concern, without a doubt,  
 24 still, over the Math scores.  
 25 And as I was able to look at the

Page 63

1 information that was provided on the new website,  
 2 New Mexico Vistas, the progress of the English  
 3 Language Learners is of serious concern, because --  
 4 I was trying to pull it up again. I think it  
 5 dropped from somewhere in the high 20s to a 12 from  
 6 last year to this year. So that's still a  
 7 significant concern.  
 8 But there's other pieces of the CAP that,  
 9 through no fault of the school, they're not going to  
 10 be able to complete those pieces and update us at  
 11 the end of the year.  
 12 So I'm -- I'm going to make the  
 13 recommendation that we close out the English -- the  
 14 Language Arts portion of the CAP and all other  
 15 portions of the CAP except for a continued notice of  
 16 concern for growth in Math and growth with the  
 17 English Language Learners.  
 18 And at this point in time, the school is  
 19 up for renewal, so that they'll be before us, and  
 20 that this will, without a doubt, be looked at when  
 21 the school is up for renewal in December. And that  
 22 gives the school -- hopefully, we all open in a more  
 23 normal fashion, and the school has four or five  
 24 months before us again with renewal, and the school  
 25 can address those concerns once again with us during

Page 64

1 that time period.  
 2 So I don't know if the school wants to say  
 3 something else.  
 4 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: No. We'd just like  
 5 to thank you for -- for taking all of this closure  
 6 into consideration. Because I know it's challenging  
 7 for everyone across the state. And we have, you  
 8 know, looked at the data that we currently have  
 9 before us and are continuing to set targets for  
 10 growth.  
 11 You know, in the future, as you mentioned,  
 12 hopefully, we'll be able to return to some sort of  
 13 normalcy, come August, and we'll continue to push  
 14 forward to make these improvements in our Language  
 15 Arts and our Math, especially, and with our ELLs as  
 16 well.  
 17 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks.  
 18 Commissioners, anyone want to say  
 19 something?  
 20 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: I did.  
 21 THE CHAIR: Hold on. Commissioner  
 22 Caballero?  
 23 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: That's fine.  
 24 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. My concern  
 25 is, is the school able to increase their performance

Page 65

1 at this time with teaching remotely? What are the  
 2 challenges that the school has? Will they be able  
 3 to meet those challenges?  
 4 Otherwise, they're going to be at a hard  
 5 place at renewal, and we're going to have to waive  
 6 something. And that's my concern at this point.  
 7 They were doing beautifully until, you know, we hit  
 8 the coronavirus.  
 9 And so that is my main concern. Will they  
 10 be able to go over the hump and keep showing growth?  
 11 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: Well, we are  
 12 currently doing everything possible, as are all the  
 13 districts in the state, to give our students  
 14 continued instruction and skill reinforcement. It's  
 15 really hard to introduce brand new topics right now.  
 16 But we are doing our best to ease that in and deal  
 17 with the technology issues that we have.  
 18 We have handed out over 30 tablets to our  
 19 students in the past couple of weeks and helped them  
 20 to get Internet access as much as possible. Some do  
 21 live in rural areas where it's limited service. But  
 22 we're maintaining constant communication via phone  
 23 calls and Zoom meetings, where applicable, to try  
 24 and keep the learning going as much as possible and  
 25 continue building those skills for our sixth- and

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 seventh-graders who will be returning to us, God 2 willing, next semester. 3 THE CHAIR: Thanks. 4 Commissioner Armbruster? 5 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes. Am I on? 6 Yes, I think I am; right? Can you hear me? 7 THE CHAIR: Yes, we can hear you. 8 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Thank you. Yes. 9 I wanted to say two things kind of contradictory. 10 One is I'm really glad that you discovered more 11 students who need to be identified through a SAT 12 process. And that's the good news. And the 13 questionable news was that I'm not sure how those 14 students have been there, basically, for a long time 15 and weren't identified. 16 So I guess I'm congratulating you on one 17 side, that you're really going through this SAT 18 process, because that may be why a number of your 19 students are not doing as well as we would expect 20 them to do. 21 But at the same time, I guess, since 22 you've been there, that you have in place a new way 23 of -- of identifying students who clearly need more 24 assistance than others. So it's just sort of a 25 comment.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: I'll second. 2 THE CHAIR: There's a motion by 3 Commissioner Gipson and a second by Commissioner 4 Voigt. 5 Any further discussion? 6 (No response.) 7 THE CHAIR: If not, Commissioner Ruiz? 8 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Robbins? 9 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: Yes. 10 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Voigt? 11 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner 13 Armbruster? 14 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes. 15 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Davis? 16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Chavez? 18 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. 19 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Gipson? 20 THE CHAIR: Yes. 21 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Raftery? 22 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Yes. 23 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Commissioner Crone? 24 COMMISSIONER CRONE: Yes. 25 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: And Commissioner Ruiz,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: Thank you. And 2 that is correct. We now have a more solid and 3 structured approach to identifying those students 4 now that we've been able to implement this program a 5 little more effectively. However, this Corona 6 adventure is throwing a little bit of a wrench, but 7 we're finding ways around it. 8 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Right. 9 Congratulations on doing that. It's difficult, I 10 know. 11 THE CHAIR: Okay. 12 Commissioners, any other comments? 13 (No response.) 14 THE CHAIR: So I'll try to clear up this 15 motion so that we're -- the school is clear and 16 we're clear on what we're still holding out and what 17 we're closing out with the CAP. 18 So I am going to make a motion that the 19 Public Education Commission close out the portions 20 of the CAP for La Academia Dolores Huerta in regards 21 to all aspects except for growth in Math students 22 and growth in English Language Learners, that that 23 will remain as a concern. And we'll make sure that 24 the school gets a letter informing them of the areas 25 that we still have a concern.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 yes. 2 Commissioner Caballero? 3 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. 4 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: The motion passes, 5 ten-zero. 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Hold on. Hold on. 7 What are we -- I don't want them removed 8 yet. So I just wanted to thank the school. And 9 it's good to at least hear that you folks are safe. 10 So thanks once again. 11 And, Karen? 12 MS. KAREN WOERNER: I just wanted to ask a 13 point of procedure from the CSD. So I understand 14 that the goal will stay the same for their EL 15 students because -- Commissioners, I'm looking at 16 Page 210 in your packet. The goals can stay the 17 same for ELs, but we will have to arrive at a new 18 goal for Math, since it's worded "winter to spring." 19 We will have to come up with a new goal for the Math 20 goal. 21 THE CHAIR: I think there's a 22 misunderstanding here. It's not that there's going 23 to be a new goal, but that the concern is still 24 there related to -- 25 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 THE CHAIR: -- related to them. So we're 2 not going to negotiate a new goal. But the school 3 is aware and made aware of the fact that the 4 Commission still has an ongoing concern for the 5 growth of the ELs -- the ELs and the Math students. 6 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Thank you. 7 THE CHAIR: Thanks. 8 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So should I -- 9 THE CHAIR: Yeah, I guess. Yeah. 10 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So, Sylvy and team, 11 I'm going -- 12 MR. ALAN BRAUER: Really quick. Sorry. 13 Madam Chair and Commissioners, I did want 14 to interject, ever so briefly, about the school's 15 continuing learning plan. They -- I did review 16 their continuous learning plan, I think it was last 17 week or the week before, and gave some feedback 18 specifically around making sure that all learners, 19 including EL Learners, have a specific plan in place 20 during this moment of COVID-19. 21 And Sylvy and her team did do a review and 22 a revision that really strengthened that component 23 to support our students, especially students who are 24 EL, special education, during this moment. 25 So I just wanted to share that that was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 an easy situation for anyone, and thank you for 2 sharing our request. 3 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you so much. 4 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: You-all stay safe. 5 THE CHAIR: You, too. Thanks. 6 MS. KAREN WOERNER: So, Sylvy, I'm going 7 to remove your team from the panelists' view, but 8 you can stay on and listen. 9 And I'm hoping to see Commissioner Chavez 10 return, because it looks like his connection 11 dropped. 12 THE CHAIR: Yeah, he's back. 13 MS. KAREN WOERNER: Okay. 14 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Sorry. I don't know 15 what happens. I get to talking, and I get bumped 16 off. 17 THE CHAIR: I know. Sorry. But I don't 18 know whether you heard Karen say that we'll have -- 19 should have that info in May? 20 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes, I did hear 21 that. 22 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. So we are on 23 to item No. 9, which is Discussion on the PEC 24 Memorandum of Understanding, the MOU, with the 25 Public Education Department.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 something that Sylvy and her team paid attention to 2 and did do a revision to ensure that all students 3 were being supported as much as we can at this time. 4 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. 5 Did you want to say something? 6 Oh, I'm sorry. 7 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Madam Chair, this is 8 Commissioner Chavez. 9 THE CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Chavez? 10 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Yes. Also, I just 11 wanted to add with that that before the closure 12 happened, all schools were able to administer the 13 ACCESS for ELLs. So we should be able to have data 14 on their ELL population -- 15 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Chavez froze on 16 us. 17 MS. KAREN WOERNER: That's true. The data 18 won't be available till probably May or later. But 19 we will have that data to compare for the school. 20 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioner Chavez, 21 you're frozen. 22 Sylvy, did you want to say something? 23 MS. GALVAN DE LUCERO: I just wanted to 24 thank you-all for all the work you're doing to 25 support the schools across the state. This is not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 And I just wanted to give a real brief 2 update, because it had been a concern of ours that 3 the communication had appeared to drop between us 4 and the PED in regards to this MOU. 5 And the PED -- I wanted the Commission to 6 know that the PED did reach out, I guess about a 7 month-and-a-half ago, to see if we could reopen that 8 discussion. And we actually had a meeting that was 9 planned to start that discussion again. 10 And, unfortunately, that meeting was going 11 to be the afternoon during our last scheduled live 12 Work Session, so that that has not taken place. And 13 I'm hoping that either through this platform, if 14 this continues any longer, or in a live manner, that 15 we will reopen this dialogue once again soon with 16 PED Legal. 17 So I just wanted Commissioners to know 18 that we were hoping that discussions were opening up 19 once again. So that's -- that's all I really have 20 on that, and I can move quickly into my report. 21 I want to thank the Commissioners that 22 have taken an extraordinary amount of time during 23 this week, and CSD staff, not only this past week 24 but in prior weeks, in getting us ready and doing 25 the negotiations.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1           It -- it wasn't quite as challenging as I 2 thought it was going to be. It was somewhat 3 challenging. It's certainly obviously different, 4 but I think it's -- it went reasonably well, given 5 the challenges that we have of this time. 6           So we've successfully concluded ten 7 schools with negotiations. We are scheduled with 8 our next batch in May. And, you know, the hope was 9 maybe we could do it in person. It's becoming less 10 and less likely, given when in May that it's set. 11 But we'll see. But the schools are ready to do it 12 through Zoom; so, hopefully, we'll get it done no 13 matter what. 14           So thank everyone for your time this week 15 in being able to get this done as easily as -- as we 16 have. 17           Let's see. I wanted to highlight the fact 18 that we have -- I think it's 22 or 26 schools of 19 ours that were Spotlight Schools. So I want to say 20 congratulations to all of those schools for the job 21 that they do every day and and the recognition that 22 the State has given them as Spotlight Schools. 23           So that's exciting, and it also goes to 24 show how our schools do -- they are able to provide 25 that -- it's almost half of our schools when you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1           call PED that we're being heard and we know that 2 someone's trying to -- to work on it." 3           So that I want to applaud everyone in 4 that -- in that work that's being done to make sure 5 that our schools are safe and secure that way. 6           I've been able to participate in a number 7 of webinars by NACSA that are dealing with this. 8 And I have to say the webinars that I've 9 participated in, I'm amazed at the -- at the schools 10 from other states, the questions they have and the 11 concerns that they have. And it's like, wow, 12 they're still dealing with that. And we -- you 13 know, PED was able to get that on board almost 14 immediately. 15           So it's kudos to the State in leadership 16 in being in the forefront of trying to figure this 17 out. And that is -- that has been really important 18 for everyone. 19           I'm going to spend a little bit of time -- 20 it's a kind of a personal rant, and I try not to do 21 this. But I was extraordinarily disappointed when 22 NEA chose to put out that they hadn't heard of a 23 public -- they hadn't heard of a charter school that 24 was feeding kids. 25           And that was so disheartening to me, for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1           look at it. So that's -- that truly is remarkable. 2           I also wanted to note, because I saw in 3 the newspaper, that we had two charter schools who 4 had students receive Daniels Foundation 5 scholarships. So that Turquoise -- I'm sorry -- The 6 MASTERS Program and Taos Academy had students that 7 received Daniels Foundation grants. 8           So I know we have students across the 9 board that get many scholarships. But that was 10 noted in the newspaper, and it is an exciting 11 scholarship opportunity for students. So I wanted 12 to say congratulations to them as well. 13           I've reached out to all the schools in my 14 district, and we had an opportunity to be online 15 with all the charter schools. And I just wanted to 16 say, first and foremost, I don't think there's been 17 a school that hasn't expressed the appreciation and 18 the support from PED through this and the clarity 19 that PED has offered for them. 20           So I want to thank everyone there in being 21 able to truly deal with these challenges as best you 22 can and doing it in such a quick fashion, that the 23 schools have really expressed the fact that, no -- 24 you know, "We've got the same challenges everyone 25 else does. But we're really comfortable when we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1           them, at this moment in time -- I'm a lifetime NEA 2 member, and this was NEA New Mexico. It wasn't 3 national NEA. So I don't know what's happening in 4 other states. But the fact that at this moment in 5 time when all of our schools are out there trying to 6 do what's best for kids, and they are out there 7 feeding and making sure that they have what they 8 need, that NEA is choosing to be divisive, still, 9 and not recognize that our schools are doing as 10 much, if not more, than the traditional public 11 schools. 12           And I normally don't try to point fingers 13 and make this, you know, an issue. But I was deeply 14 disappointed that there is a point right now that 15 any organization feels that they need to divide, for 16 whatever reason right now, because we are in this 17 together and we have to move through this together. 18           So I'm going to get off my rant right now. 19 But I needed -- I needed to get that off my chest. 20 So thank you for that time. 21           I also was able to participate in a couple 22 of the webinars that the school boards did with the 23 online budget workshop that they did. And I -- I 24 think those are all going to be available for folks 25 so that they can take a look at them.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 But, in particular, I did do the pre-K one 2 that was done. So I want to thank them as well for 3 making that opportunity available so that folks 4 could listen to -- I know it's different, but at 5 least get some information out. And I know there's 6 ongoing concerns that schools have with budgets. 7 But we're not going to know a lot until 8 the special session comes through. We're just going 9 to have to pay close attention and help, as best we 10 can, schools through this, because we know cuts are 11 coming. So -- and it's always that challenge when 12 you're being asked to make cuts after you've already 13 made a budget. 14 So with that, I'm going to move on -- I 15 don't think -- I don't think I saw Matt in the 16 attendees list. So I don't think Public Charter 17 Schools are here. 18 So we can move on to -- and I know the 19 School Boards Association isn't here. So we can 20 quickly move on to PEC Comments. 21 So Commissioner Ruiz? 22 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Thank you. I just 23 want to -- same thing like you did -- you said, 24 Commissioner Gipson. I really want to thank all the 25 educators that are taking part in making this work.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 issues. 2 So, you know, it's been a challenge for 3 everybody. [Inaudible] everybody that's working on 4 this to make sure that our students and their 5 educational needs are met as best as they can be 6 during this trying time. 7 And thank you all, PED and everybody else. 8 Thank you. 9 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Caballero? 10 COMMISSIONER CABALLERO: Yes. I just 11 wanted to thank everybody and just to let you know 12 this was a big learning experience. And sorry I 13 didn't -- you didn't see me in the first few 14 meetings. 15 But I was able to get it done. I thought 16 I could get it done by myself and reached out to 17 friends, and they couldn't help me. 18 But I finally figured it out, and I got 19 some help from IT, and I'm glad. 20 And I was expecting this to be a lot 21 harder, and it was a breeze, and I'm glad to have 22 gone through this. 23 I do anticipate with -- we will be doing 24 this for quite a while. To some extent, even when 25 everything comes back to some normalcy, I think</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 It has been a challenge. I will tell you 2 from -- and I speak from my district -- I know the 3 state, as a whole, is doing tremendous things. But 4 I will tell you it has been quite a challenge. And 5 the fact that we are all uniting and making the 6 learning opportunities available for our kids -- and 7 I don't know if it made the news over there, but it 8 was all over here and on social media. 9 One of our principals just decided to do a 10 neighborhood walk and reach those seniors, because 11 the ones that -- you know, of course we're worried 12 about all of them. But our seniors, we want them to 13 graduate. And they're experiencing a lot of 14 different things right now. 15 And so he was literally going to our 16 seniors' houses. And, of course, no contact. But 17 he would, you know, go to their house and drop words 18 of encouragement in the form of notes and things 19 like that. 20 So can't thank our support staff enough, 21 our cafeteria workers, our bus drivers, everything. 22 And then I really want to thank the 23 parents, because this is really hard trying to do 24 online learning. I mean, I was able to access 25 yesterday, and today I was having connectivity</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 we're still going to have to do some of this. 2 Thank you. 3 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Davis? 4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Hi. Yeah. So it's 5 been a very interesting week. And echoing some of 6 the other people about just general education, I'm 7 an instructor at the college, and we had to move 8 from face-to-face to online, and I had to learn lots 9 of new stuff immediately. 10 And I don't want to learn anything more 11 new. But -- but it's helped me with this meeting. 12 And I'm kind of glad that we had some really small 13 glitches, because it makes me feel better about 14 myself. 15 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Raftery? 16 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Okay. I want to 17 also echo everything that Commissioner Ruiz said. 18 In addition to that, there are some parents who are 19 really frustrated because they can't help their kids 20 with their work because they don't understand it. 21 There are several teachers that I know 22 that they've contacted and said, you know, "I can't 23 help my child because I don't know how to do the 24 math," which is a problem, too. 25 So I'm just worried about the kids not</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 being able to reach their goals for next year.  2 I -- there is a -- in addition to you,  3 Commissioner Gipson, my daughter moved to Arizona,  4 and they were looking into taking my granddaughter  5 to a science/math academy. And when they looked  6 into it, there's no cap on how many kids are in the  7 classroom. So the classrooms have, like, 30 kids.  8 And it's just, like, there's no  9 regulation, I guess. Everybody just starts whatever  10 they want. So we are -- we are number one,  11 according to what I understand, in charter schools.  12 But thanks a lot, everybody. Did learn a  13 lot. First time on Zoom. It was great. Thanks.  14 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Armbruster?  15 COMMISSIONER ARMBRUSTER: Yes. It takes a  16 minute to unmute. I again want to thank everyone  17 for all the work you did. I only did two days of  18 it, so you did more. And I thank you for doing  19 that.  20 And I wanted to say that it's unfortunate  21 that the State now doesn't have money, because I can  22 assure you that people would give a 100 percent  23 raise to all teachers, because these parents are  24 going, "Oh, my gosh. I had no idea it was so hard."  25 So having said that, that I'm -- I'm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 kids.  2 And one of the staff that attends -- one  3 of the vendors that attends the NMPSIA meetings was  4 concerned about social distancing.  5 It was obvious from the videos that the  6 staff were very diligent about maintaining distance  7 and wearing gloves and masks and so forth.  8 And so I just want to salute all of the  9 districts and the staff -- staff who were not cooks  10 would go in and help prepare the breakfasts and  11 lunches.  12 And there -- a big concern that came up --  13 and I heard a report on it on television last  14 night -- is that with everybody at home, domestic  15 violence increases. But I don't know at this point  16 what we can do about that.  17 Stay safe, everybody. Stay home.  18 THE CHAIR: Commissioner Voigt?  19 COMMISSIONER CRONE: I'm done.  20 THE CHAIR: Thank you.  21 COMMISSIONER VOIGT: Thank you. I also  22 want to echo the -- the flexibility and the seamless  23 transition that we experienced over this past week  24 in utilizing this online technology, and to Chairman  25 Gipson and to the staff for facilitating those</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 agreeing with everyone else. I think New Mexico is  2 in far better shape. I think Glenna and Pattie and  3 I felt that way when we came back from the NACSA  4 conference, like, "Oh, my gosh. These people don't  5 know what they're doing, and we do."  6 So I thank everyone. I thank CSD for  7 keeping us together. And I'm so proud that I could  8 actually get on this Zoom thing.  9 So thank you, all. Talk to you later.  10 THE CHAIR: Thanks. Commissioner Crone?  11 COMMISSIONER CRONE: Good health to you,  12 Karyl Ann.  13 I attended an AFT Zoom meeting. I'm going  14 to get those blue filter glasses, because I'm  15 spending all my time in front of my computer. And  16 they -- we were -- it was all the local presidents  17 from around the state, and they were all talking  18 about what they were doing to support their children  19 in the homes.  20 And quite a few of districts had sent a  21 video. And let me insert something here.  22 I also attended a NMPSIA meeting in which  23 this issue came up about feeding children. The bus  24 drivers know where the kids live, and so they're  25 able to deliver food to the Free and Reduced Lunch</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 negotiations so efficiently and using this capacity.  2 So great job on that.  3 The -- this presents, I know, many  4 challenges with the stay-at-home and the physical  5 distancing. But it also, I think, presents a lot of  6 opportunity for innovation, as we just demonstrated  7 ourselves this past week.  8 But also, within the schools, it's -- it's  9 opening up time for our school leaders to do things  10 from home that normally they wouldn't have the  11 opportunity to do being at a school site and being  12 drawn in to so many spontaneous little fires that  13 arise throughout the day at a building.  14 So I think a lot of the charter school  15 leaders have been able to seize this opportunity  16 that this challenge has brought around and be  17 flexible and innovative in the way that they're  18 leading the schools.  19 I think regarding the -- the NEA  20 statement, it might be of our interest, or some  21 charter leaders' interest, to write an editorial  22 about the innovative work that the charter schools  23 have been doing, and, because they're small and they  24 work within a smaller community, highlight that  25 great work and how they are able to really work</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 within their communities to support their 2 stakeholders and their parents and kids. Because 3 that's something, as a small school, they have more 4 versatility around to do. 5 And it is sad to hear that the NEA would 6 take that stance. 7 The authorization piece, I've been on a 8 couple of the NACSA webinars. And as we experienced 9 in St. Louis at the conference, New Mexico is doing 10 some very progressive and proactive work around the 11 authorization of the charter schools here in 12 New Mexico. 13 I think it would be very forward of us to 14 write a proposal for next year's conference and 15 present, because it's -- it always just shocks and 16 surprises me, as ideas come forward and the work is 17 implemented, that it's the next big silver bullet or 18 the next shining star, the next big ornament on the 19 Christmas tree, when, in reality, this is something 20 that we have been doing -- New Mexico, as a 21 lower-ranked state in the country -- that we have 22 been doing for a long time. 23 And I think it's about time that we -- 24 that we speak up, and that we not necessarily boast 25 or brag, but that we highlight and share some of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 in mind. 2 And I love the creative things that are 3 going on in recognizing that, and I hope we continue 4 to see that. 5 I also want to just report that in talking 6 to several superintendents and charter school 7 directors -- and I'm sure this is affecting 8 governing council members as well -- is, as you 9 know, this is the time of year where everybody's 10 developing their budget and getting ready to get it 11 submitted to PED. 12 And a lot of heartburn out there, because, 13 you know, there is the mandate on the 4 percent 14 raises. And while there was an increase to the unit 15 value, a lot of people are experiencing that there 16 may not be enough to cover those 4 percent. 17 However, it's a requirement. 18 And so just trying to get the balance, 19 then, Madam Chairwoman, you had mentioned the -- 20 just trying to just get everything done and trying 21 to make it work, I'm just -- I'm starting to think 22 that -- there's going to be some additional 23 challenges that -- that are coming down the pike as 24 we move forward. 25 You know, we know that there will be a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 great practices that are already going on in our 2 state. 3 So that's just a thought to go forward. 4 If anyone on the PEC wants to -- to submit a 5 proposal, I would be on board with helping write 6 that for the next conference. I don't know what 7 their theme is. But also there's many other 8 national conferences that we could highlight, 9 because I'm very proud of the work that New Mexico 10 has done throughout the years in public education, 11 but also in the world of charter schools. 12 So that's all. Great work, everyone. And 13 it's great to see everyone's faces on the screen. 14 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. 15 Commissioner Chavez? 16 COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ: Okay. I just want 17 to piggyback on a couple of things. 18 Commissioner Ruiz, talking about their 19 seniors. And I know that's the group that's really 20 been affected the most are the seniors, because, you 21 know, this was their year, you know. This is what 22 most kids look forward to is their senior year. And 23 then for it to be cut short like this and just 24 totally unexpected, a lot of our seniors are having 25 a hard time. And so, you know, we need to keep them</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 special session, and we're all kind of predicting 2 that there's going to be some type of cuts. We just 3 don't know -- the unknown is really, really 4 difficult. It's hard to plan for the future when 5 you don't know -- there's so many unknowns at this 6 point. 7 But because things are written in statute, 8 we have to move forward as is, as it's done right 9 now. And that's what's presenting a lot of 10 challenges in the development of budgets across the 11 state right now. 12 Just know that there's a lot of people 13 that have a lot of anxiety right now, not just 14 because of the situation with the -- with the -- the 15 COVID-19, but also just, you know, trying to make 16 things happen and get them in place for next school 17 year. 18 Thank you. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioner 20 Robbins? 21 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: I will ditto what 22 everyone has said as far as the support that our 23 charters are providing their students and continue 24 to do that. I think they're doing an exceptional 25 job during this close-down of the schools, their</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 physical facilities at least.  2 I think it also highlights the need --  3 what we've seen, and even with some of the  4 interruptions we've had here in terms of broadband,  5 the need throughout the state for focusing on more  6 broadband. Because at times like these, it reminds  7 me of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. We sit there and  8 say, "Well, we have to take care of the food and  9 water and shelter."  10 We go to these higher-level things in the  11 hierarchy. But when we have a problem, we come back  12 down. And if we don't have the infrastructure in  13 place -- and I don't mean buildings. I mean we've  14 moved into an information age, and we really were  15 putting so much money into bricks-and-mortar. And,  16 you know, that's all right. But when we don't put  17 enough money into what really allows people to  18 communicate and do things at times like these,  19 that's where I think these things get highlighted.  20 One of the things the PSCOC has looked  21 at -- and we had a meeting on Monday of this week,  22 and I had the subcommittee meeting the week  23 before -- are the funding cuts. Funding cuts are  24 going to happen for the next fiscal year.  25 I think many of the leaders don't want to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 think, is one place where you can get a huge bang  2 for your buck. And at times like these, whether it  3 is a pandemic like this or whether it's just  4 individuals who have an ailment or a medical need  5 and they cannot physically attend their schools,  6 having that broadband connectivity and having the  7 devices where they can connect is so important.  8 And I think we -- you know, I will  9 continue to work on trying to make sure that that's  10 done. But there are some charters that they could  11 get some equipment, moveable equipment, even in  12 leased facilities, and they haven't applied for it.  13 So I would encourage them to continue looking at  14 those avenues to -- to better support their students  15 who may not be able to be physically present when we  16 do come back.  17 I wish you all well. I wish the health  18 and safety for all of our members and all the  19 schools and the students. I just wish you the best  20 and look forward to seeing you all again soon.  21 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. And I  22 appreciate that.  23 And, certainly, it was encouraging. Most  24 of the schools we talked with this week have been  25 able to provide devices, and that hasn't been as</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 try to have a special session too early. My fear is  2 that the 4 percent raises will go into effect, and  3 then schools are going to be burdened with not  4 having the money to pay for those required  5 increases. That's a real concern.  6 There's also a concern in terms of the  7 capital monies that are going to be allocated and  8 things for traditional schools, but also what may be  9 available for charters that are in the pipeline.  10 Another thing that they're looking at --  11 and this is not anything that's, you know,  12 definite -- but the possibility of cuts to lease  13 payments, because those are pretty much viewed as  14 discretionary. That is a huge burden on our charter  15 schools, on most of them. And if there's any cuts  16 in lease assistance -- and, personally, I think what  17 they provide now, a maximum of \$737 per year per  18 student, is woefully inadequate when you compare  19 that to most district schools are spending between  20 \$1,000 and \$2,000 per year per student on capital.  21 And, you know, in my own district here at  22 APS, they're spending over \$3,000 per year on debt  23 service and new capital projects.  24 So, you know, there's a -- still a big  25 disparity on capital projects. But broadband, I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 great a challenge, at least with the ten schools  2 that we saw.  3 But I just want to close with reminding  4 everyone to keep telling folks that, as Commissioner  5 Robbins mentioned, the physical building is closed,  6 but school isn't closed. And even though that there  7 are challenges out there, the expectation is that  8 we're providing education for the kids in  9 New Mexico. And there is growth that is available,  10 and it is not an excuse to say, next year, "Oh, you  11 know, we had to close down because of the COVID, and  12 you can't expect us to grow our students," because  13 we met with schools this year that deal with  14 students that have extraordinary exceptions, and  15 they're able to get that job done and do it well.  16 So that it is a challenge. But that's --  17 the expectation is we can still grow our students  18 without being physically there. It's just more  19 challenging. And we are doing it.  20 So -- and I will also say it's great --  21 we've seen most of you all week. So it's  22 encouraging every day that everyone can still show  23 up.  24 So stay safe, everyone. And I think we'll  25 be together in this format in May; but, hopefully,</p>

1 we can work towards changing it as we go forward.  
 2 So thanks, everyone. And I will entertain  
 3 a motion to adjourn.  
 4 COMMISSIONER ROBBINS: So moved.  
 5 COMMISSIONER RAFTERY: Second.  
 6 THE CHAIR: There's a motion to adjourn.  
 7 There's a second. All in favor.  
 8 (Commissioners so indicate.)  
 9 THE CHAIR: Even my household voted on  
 10 that one. Stay safe, everyone. We are adjourned.  
 11 (Proceedings concluded at 11:13 a.m.)  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 RECEIPT  
 2 JOB NUMBER: 3800N (CC) Date: 4/17/2020  
 3 PROCEEDINGS: Open Public Meeting  
 4 \*\*\*\*\*  
 5 ATTORNEY: MS. BEVERLY FRIEDMAN, NMPED  
 6 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other \_\_\_\_  
 7 DATE DELIVERED: \_\_\_\_\_ DEL'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 REC'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 \*\*\*\*\*  
 10 ATTORNEY:  
 11 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other \_\_\_\_  
 12 DATE DELIVERED: \_\_\_\_\_ DEL'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 13 REC'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 14 \*\*\*\*\*  
 15 ATTORNEY:  
 16 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other \_\_\_\_  
 17 DATE DELIVERED: \_\_\_\_\_ DEL'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 18 REC'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 \*\*\*\*\*  
 20 ATTORNEY:  
 21 DOCUMENT: Transcript / Exhibits / Disks / Other \_\_\_\_  
 22 DATE DELIVERED: \_\_\_\_\_ DEL'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 REC'D BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 24  
 25

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
 2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 3  
 4  
 5 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
 6 I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified  
 7 Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby  
 8 certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true  
 9 transcript of remote proceedings had before the said  
 10 NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the  
 11 State of New Mexico, via Zoom Webinar remote  
 12 connectivity, in the matter therein stated.  
 13 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my  
 14 hand on April 28, 2020.  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR #219  
 20 BEAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 21 201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630  
 22 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102  
 23  
 24  
 25 Job No.: 3800N (CC)

## 1                   BEFORE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

2                                   STATE OF NEW MEXICO

3  
4  
5                                   REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

6           I, Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR, CCR #219, Certified  
7 Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby  
8 certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true  
9 transcript of remote proceedings had before the said  
10 NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, held in the  
11 State of New Mexico, via Zoom Webinar remote  
12 connectivity, in the matter therein stated.

13           In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my  
14 hand on April 28, 2020.

15  
16  
17                                   *Cynthia Chapman*

18                                   Cynthia C. Chapman, RMR-CRR, NM CCR #219  
19                                   BEAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
20                                   201 Third Street, NW, Suite 1630  
21                                   Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

22  
23  
24  
25           Job No.: 3800N (CC)

SANTA FE OFFICE  
119 East Marcy, Suite 110  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 989-4949  
FAX (505) 820-6349

**BEAN**  
**& ASSOCIATES, Inc.**  
**A**  
PROFESSIONAL COURT  
REPORTING SERVICE

MAIN OFFICE  
201 Third NW, Suite 1630  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 843-9494  
FAX (505) 843-9492  
1-800-669-9492  
e-mail: info@litsupport.com